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Prevention of armed conflict

The situation in the Middle East

Security Council
Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 9 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach hereto the text of the declaration by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the escalation of tensions in north-western Syria, which was adopted in Moscow on 3 April 2014 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 33 and 35, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vitaly **Churkin**

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Annex to the letter dated 9 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the escalation of tensions in north-western Syria

[Original: Russian]

We express our great concern at the worsening of the situation in north-western Syria as a result of conflict between Government forces and extremist groups linked to Al-Qaida, which has led to loss of life and the forced displacement of thousands of inhabitants of the town of Kassab, most of whom are Armenians.

We strongly condemn the terrorist acts and use of force against the civilian population.

We call for an immediate end to the violence and the safe return of refugees. We are convinced that normal conditions can be restored if outside interference and violence are rejected in favour of a broad-based political dialogue that takes into account the interests of all Syrians, regardless of their ethnicity and religious affiliation.

We urge all interested parties and those involved in the conflict to act in strict compliance with international law in the interests of a rapid end to the bloodshed and the achievement of a peaceful political settlement in Syria on the basis of the Geneva Communiqué of 30 June 2012.

(*Signed*) Edward Agvanovich **Nalbandyan**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Armenia

(*Signed*) Vladimir Vladimirovich **Makei**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Belarus

(*Signed*) Erlan Abilfaizovich **Idrissov**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Kazakhstan

(*Signed*) Erlan Bekeshovich **Abdyldayev**
Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs
Kyrgyz Republic

(*Signed*) Sergey Viktorovich **Lavrov**
Minister for Foreign Affairs
Russian Federation

(*Signed*) Mahmoudjon Nosirovich **Sobirov**
First Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs
Republic of Tajikistan

Moscow
3 April 2014